

CLAIMS

1. A method of handover from a first radio access technology to a second radio access technology for a mobile radio communications device within a mobile radio communications network, and including determining a timing advance value associated with the second radio access technology, the method characterized by employing positional data of the device within the network for determining the said timing advance value.
2. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the timing advance value is also determined on the basis of the location of the base station system associated with the second radio access technology.
3. A method as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the positional data of the device is determined prior to handover.
4. A method as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the timing advance value is determined within the network.
5. A method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the positional data is provided within a serving radio network controller of the network.
6. A method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the positional data is delivered by way of a core network arrangement to the basestation system.
7. A method as claimed in Claim 5 or 6, wherein the timing advance value is signalled to the device from the basestation system.
8. A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the timing advance value is included within the handover command as received by the device.
9. A method as claimed in any one or more of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the timing advance value is determined within the device.
10. A mobile communications system arranged for operation with a first radio access technology and a second radio access technology and including means for initiating the handover of a mobile radio communications device from the first radio access technology to the second radio access technology, wherein

the means for initiating the handover including means for determining a timing advance value associated with the second radio access technology and wherein such means is arranged to employ positional data of the device within the network for determining the said timing advance value.

11. A system as claimed in Claim 10, and arranged such that the timing advance value is also determined on the basis of the location of the basestation system associated with the second radio access technology.

12. A system as claimed in Claim 10 or 11, and arranged such that the positional data of the device is determined prior handover.

13. A system as claimed in Claim 10, 11 or 12, and arranged such that the timing advance value is determined within the network

14. A system as claimed in Claim 13, and arranged such that the positional data is provided within a serving radio network controller.

15. A system as claimed in Claim 14, and arranged such that the positional data is delivered by way of a core network arrangement to the basestation system.

16. A system as claimed in Claim 13 or 14, and arranged for signalling the timing advance value to the device from the basestation system.

17. A system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the timing advance value is included within the handover command as received by the device.

18. A system as claimed in any one or more of Claim 10 to 12, and arranged such that the timing advance value is determined within the device.

19. A method of handover from a first radio access technology to a second radio access technology for a mobile radio communications device within a mobile radio communications network and substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as illustrated in, Figs 2, 3 and 4 of the accompanying drawings.

20. A mobile radio communications system arranged for a handover from a first radio access technology to a second radio access technology and

substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figs 2, 3 and 4 of the accompanying drawings.